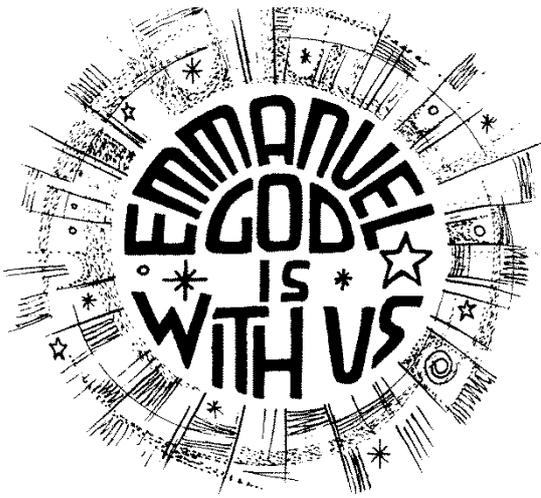


Notices for Christmas Day to 3rd January 2021

25 December 2020

www.st-matthias-church.org



Collect for Christmas Day

Lord Jesus Christ,
your birth at Bethlehem
draws us to kneel in wonder
at heaven touching earth:
accept our heartfelt praise,
as we worship you,
our Saviour and our eternal God. Amen

Welcome

Services online

available on the church YouTube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCopwyXTvmHCMOUSKeJf6YQ>

or

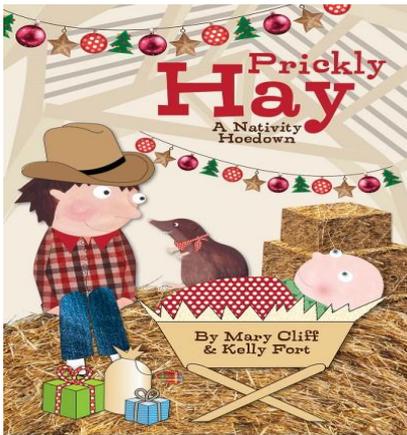
from specific links below in the notice sheet

or

via the church website - follow links from 'online services and worship resources' on home page

Christmas Eve	11am Carol Singing <i>on the piazza – please book on 311488</i>
	5pm Christingle Service <i>online</i> https://youtu.be/LkLVloxxnwQ
	5.45pm Lighting of the Christingles <i>on zoom</i> https://zoom.us/j/99662654977?pwd=K2JDbHdoMGJOUdRTbnRzaFV1Vm5Mdz09 Meeting ID: 996 6265 4977 Passcode: 339141
Christmas Day	from 8am 'Advent' Godly Play Part 5 on St Matthias YouTube channel or from www.thegodlyplayroom.co.uk
	8.30am Holy Communion <i>(Common Worship) in church – please pre-book on 311488</i> Or join in at home if you prefer for this slightly more formal service than the 10am service – service sheet link: d3hgrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net
	10am Christmas Family Communion <i>online</i>
	11am Coffee (or something in a glass?!) <i>on zoom</i> https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78179904975?pwd=TGJzcDBpQU8rR2NEcnhsQmxIVzkyQT09 Meeting ID: 781 7990 4975 Passcode: Jo3v16

Sun 27 Dec	10am Prickly Hay Join us for some stable fun! Performed by our very own St Matthias Children and Youth. Watch on St Matthias YouTube channel
	11am Morning Worship <i>online</i>
Centre and Church closed. Will re-open on Sunday 3 January.	
Sun 3 Jan	9.30am Breakfastzone <i>on zoom</i> https://zoom.us/j/99707004288?pwd=MEZjQ3B3YXZySGN2NWFsN2Ezc nA5UT09 Meeting ID: 997 0700 4288 Passcode: 353076
	10.30am Coffee <i>on zoom</i> https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78179904975?pwd=TGJzcDBpQU8rR2NEcnhsQmxIVzkyQT09 Meeting ID: 781 7990 4975 Passcode: Jo3v16
	11am Holy Communion <i>in church</i> – please phone to book on 311488 <i>but also check on the website in case fresh restrictions apply</i>



Musical Nativity on Sunday 27 December

Join us for some stable fun! Performed by our very own St Matthias Children and Youth. Watch on St Matthias YouTube channel from 10am.

Wondering through Advent
Join Lena Fearnley for **Godly Play**
Each week of Advent
A reflective space for us to explore the Christmas Story together
These stories will be available from these dates:
Sunday 29th November
Sunday 6th December
Sunday 13th December
Sunday 20th December
Friday 25th December
www.thegodlyplayroom.co.uk or through St Matthias Church's website

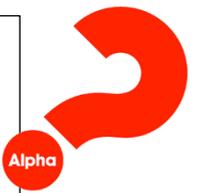
Christmas Charity Collections

This year our charity collection is:

Christian Aid
www.christianaid.org.uk

To donate please go to their website
Thank you

**Questions about Faith?
Look out for the next Alpha course online which we plan to run early in the New Year.**



What the donkey saw
No room in the inn of course, and not much in the stable.
What with the shepherds, the magi, Mary, Joseph, the heavenly host.
Still, in spite of the overcrowding, I did my best to make him feel wanted.
I could see that the baby and I would be going places together.
by U A Fanthorpe

A note from the Rectory....“Christmas is cancelled”? Hardly...

...but it is a real disappointment not to have Christmas family meals that many have long looked forward to – and now have fridges full of food! It's sad too, that with limited numbers, we are not able to all meet in person for our family meal of Holy Communion – nor to sing in celebration!

Yet, we're still 'family' whether we meet up in person for Christmas or not. Indeed, one of the 'comforts and joys' of Christmas is to hear again the wonderful beginning of John's gospel where we are told that Christ's coming gives us power to become children of God. Christmas reminds us we belong, and are beloved.



Having said that, as church family, at the end of the year, it's good to take stock of our life together.

We can celebrate all the new ways we have learned to stay in touch – with Zoom and having so many people contributing to our online worship. We've been able to contact people who we haven't been in touch with for years. We have witnessed the wonderful outpouring of kindness to neighbours. However, life remains difficult.

In the 6th Century BC the Jewish people were in Exile. They were forcibly removed to another land, and their Temple was destroyed. They found it hard to adapt to new ways of worship away from all that was familiar. *“How can we sing the songs of the LORD while in a foreign land?”* (Ps 137 v4) You may feel just the same.

Yet we have the opportunity to learn something really important. Our faith does not need to depend on meeting God in a particular place or way. Remember Jesus is 'Emmanuel', 'God with us' – everywhere, and all the time!

It isn't always easy though to learn new ways to worship and pray. I wonder whether you have found any new routines of prayer and worship and bible reading at home? At the start of lockdown we published some ideas here <https://tinyurl.com/y8uxve32> or you could join in one of online churches who offer some sort of daily prayer.

Remember, when we worship at home we are connected in praise and worship with our brothers and sisters all over the world!

So, for this New Year, can we encourage you to:

Persevere in kindness.

Persevere in seeking the face of God in prayer and worship from your home.

Persevere with regular Sunday worship with the rest of the church family – in person or as part of the growing online community – and do sing out your praise to God in the only place you can at the moment – at home!

We have an amazing God, who loves us so much He sent His only begotten Son at Christmas to be with us. Let's continue as a family to offer him worship because He is worth it.

With our prayers for 2021,

John and Ruth

A selection of prayers for the coming days...

Almighty God, in the birth of your Son you have poured on us the new light of your Incarnate Word, and shown us the fullness of your love: help us to walk in his light and dwell in his love that we may know the fullness of his joy.

You are the King of Glory, O Christ, you are the everlasting Son of the Father. We give you our love and offer you our lives. Come, Lord, and rule in our hearts, until your kingdom comes on earth as it is in heaven.

Christ, our King, keep us calm and faithful in all our troubles; let us not be afraid, for you rule over all and your kingdom will come. Give strength and direction to all who seek to do your will, to all who strive for peace, all who work for righteousness. Guide all who proclaim your coming and your kingdom. Lord, your kingdom come in us, as it is in heaven.

Christ, our King, may we know you are ever present in all life, you are there at the centre of power, where decisions are made; yet you are with the weak and the humble whom no one notices. We pray for all who seek justice and maintain order, for all rulers and people in authority.

Christ, our King, rule in our hearts and in our homes. May love, peace and forgiveness be known among us; may we seek to show we belong to you and you love us. We pray for broken homes and broken-hearted people, for all who have been deserted by loved ones.

Christ our King, give hope and vision to the suffering, let them be aware of your love and your kingdom. Keep, O Lord, in your grasp all who are losing their grip on life, enfold in your love all who are fearful and anxious. We pray for the troubled in body, mind or spirit; we remember before you all who are ill.

We give thanks that you are Lord of all, your kingdom cannot fail, death has no dominion over us. We give thanks that your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom and our loved departed ones are with you in glory. We pray for our friends and loved ones departed especially Lord, your kingdom come in us, as it is in heaven.

To contact the Church:

Although the building will be closed for Christmas and the New Year other than for services, you can still get in touch. Please leave a message and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

Office: 01803 214175
admin@st-matthias-church.org

Thanks go to:

The staff team for all their work on the worship services, and also to David Wilkinson for running the AV sound and vision 😊

**We wish you a very
Happy Christmas**